The death of Dr. Overton, premature and unexpected, is a body blow for all Bioinformatics community and for us, his friends and colleagues in Russia. Chris always paid a great attention to strengthening of the international cooperation in the Bioinformatics research. That is why, he left behind along with brilliant scientific results an example of real international collaboration in science. As an example of international cooperation initiated by Chris may serve the collaboration with Laboratory of Theoretical Genetics of the Institute of Cytology and Genetics of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences. From 1995, this laboratory and the Center for Bioinformatics at University of Pennsylvania together made a common research despite of distance between Philadelphia and Novosibirsk, and we are very grateful to Chris for his support, assistance and understanding friendly provided.

Dr. G. Christian Overton was the founding Director of the Center for Bioinformatics at Penn, established in 1997 as an interdisciplinary venture between the Schools of Medicine, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering and Applied Science. He was also an Associate Professor in the Department of Genetics, and held a secondary appointment in the Department of Computer and Information Science in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Dr. Overton received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of New Mexico in 1971, his Ph.D. in Biophysics from the Johns Hopkins University in 1978, and his M.S.E. in Computer and Information Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1986. After receiving his M.S.E, he returned to the University of Pennsylvania in 1991 as an Associate Professor. In addition to his research, Dr. Overton was an Editor for the Journal of Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, and Gene/Gene-COMBIS as well as the Member of the Board of Directors for the International Society for Computational Biology.

Dr. Overton's brilliant skills in biophysics and bioinformatics, his deep understanding of the challenges in biology, medicine, and computer science enabled him to organize many outstanding research projects, which bridge the gap between experimental biology and computer science aimed to experimental data treatment. Dr. Overton is internationally recognized as a pioneer in genomic research and application of computational approaches for solving biological problems. He focused on problems associated with database integration, genome annotation, gene recognition, and detection of regulatory elements governing the expression of many genes that comprise the human genome.

Chris was one of the Co-Organizers of the BGRS2000 Conference. Due to his activity, the Organizing Committee managed to put together the effort of those interested in the basic approaches and trends in bioinformatics. Chris will be remembered for his love of science, his charm, good nature and his great intelligence. For people here in Novosibirsk who met him and knew him well he will be remembered as a faithful and good friend and as a researcher devoted to science.

Professor Nikolay Kolchanov,
Head of Laboratory of Theoretical Genetics,
Vice-Director of the Institute of Cytology and Genetics,
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